

Ser. No. 10/521,485
Internal Docket No. PF020090

Customer No. 24498

Remarks/Arguments

Upon entry of the accompanying amendment, claims 1-7 and 9-11 will be pending in this application. Claims 1-7 and 9 are amended herein to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Claim 8 is cancelled. Claims 10-11 are newly added. No new matter is added by the present amendment.

Claim Objection

Claim 2 is objected to because of an improper dependency. In particular, claim 2 depends on itself. To rectify this matter, claim 2 is amended herein to depend from claim 1. In view of this amendment, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejection of claims 1-7 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yap et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0066893)

Applicants submit that claims 1-7 and 9 are not anticipated by the teachings of Yap et al. for at least the following reasons.

Applicants first note that independent claim 1, as amended herein, defines a method for testing an appliance having a smart card reader. The method comprises steps of:

“receiving a test adapter into said smart card reader for testing said appliance, said test adapter having a plurality of contacts that connect to a corresponding plurality of contacts of said smart card reader;

***providing a reset signal for an activation of a smart card;
beginning a test mode initialization for testing said appliance via said test adapter if a response to said reset signal is negative;*** and

using a first one of said contacts of said smart card reader as a serial interface for transmitting signals in accordance with an RS232 standard to test said appliance, wherein said first contact of said smart card reader is not used by said appliance during an operation with said smart card and is a smart card contact for a programming voltage. (emphasis added)

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Independent claim 4 defines an appliance, comprising:

"a smart card reader having a plurality of contacts, wherein a first one of said contacts which is not used by said appliance during normal operation with a smart card is used as a serial port for testing said appliance; and

wherein said appliance provides a reset signal via a second one of said contacts for an activation of said smart card, and begins a test mode initialization for testing said appliance via a test adapter inserted into said smart card reader if a response to said reset signal is negative." (emphasis added)

As indicated above, independent claims 1 and 4, as amended herein, define an appliance having a smart card reader in which the appliance provides a reset signal for an activation of a smart card, and begins a test mode initialization for testing the appliance via a test adapter inserted into the smart card reader if a response to the reset signal is negative. The foregoing subject matter is incorporated into independent claims 1 and 4 from former dependent claim 8 which the Examiner has indicated as being allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim in the Office Action of June 30, 2006.

Yap et al. fails to teach or suggest each and every one of the aforementioned elements of amended independent claims 1 and 4. In particular, Yap et al. discloses an interface card for operating with a computer or a set-top box. However, Yap et al. fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, how the specified embodiments can be tested after manufacturing, or how remote reader 1 as shown in Figs. 6(a) and 6(b) may be used for testing an appliance. Accordingly, Yap et al. fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, an appliance that provides a reset signal for an activation of a smart card, and begins a test mode initialization for testing the appliance via a test adapter inserted into the smart card reader if a response to the reset signal is negative, as claimed. Accordingly, claims 1-7 and 9 are believed to be allowable in view of the foregoing amendments and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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Newly Added Claims 10-11

Claims 10-11 are newly added herein to alternatively define the present invention. In particular, independent claim 10 is drafted in method format and includes the allowable subject of former dependent claim 8. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request allowance of newly added claims 10-11.

Conclusion

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant's attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

Respectfully submitted,
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